

MIDWINTER TROTTING SALE

BOEDER GUARD KNOCKED DOWN FOR \$1,030.

Fair Price for Ramapo Valley Stock Farm and Spring Valley Horses. Baron Posey goes to F. L. Ayers for \$205—Small Returns on Opening Day.

The annual midwinter sale of the Fasig-Tipton Company, covering four days at Madison Square Garden, opened yesterday, but as usual the buyers were rather slow in warming to their work. The fine lot of 50 animals figure on the catalogue and these include mostly all classes of horses, colts, pacers of both sexes along with a useful string for the road, the speedway and the stud. In the day session, which began at 10 o'clock, eighty-six animals went to the hammer for a total of \$16,865, an average of \$195. It was not very impressive, the horsemen said, but much better figures are expected to come.

The top-rated figure of the afternoon was \$500 for the six-year-old trotting stallion Border Guard. Last year in competition he was more than once timed to 2 for the mile. In fact during the grand circuit fixture at Columbus, Ohio, he was close up in three heats of 2:09, 2:08, and 2:08 $\frac{1}{4}$, which was pretty keen going for a four-year-old. The purchaser was John Phillips of Brooklyn. Border Guard was from the consignment of the Bingham Stock Farm, Bingham, Mass.

What attracted the real horsey element in the afternoon was when the consignments from the Ramapo Stock Farm of Spring Valley, N. Y., and Phillips Bros. of Elvian, Wis., were put to the hammer. In this latter lot there were several lots of the crack stallion Baron Posey, said to be one of the best sons of Baron Wiles, a famous paper horseman. Baron Margaret, a son of Baron Posey, out of Marcella, and showing some speedy points, was knocked down to F. L. Ayers of New Brunswick, N. J., for the small sum of \$205. A two-year-old trotting filly named Fuschia by the same stallion was bought by a Vermont buyer for \$200.

The best of the Ramapo consignment was the bay trotting mare Arresto. She is a six-year-old, and was knocked down to Parmer & Hayland of Syracuse for \$200.

Among the horsemen present were W. W. Collier and A. J. Crawford, Detroit; John Donovan, St. Joseph, Mo.; Capt. David L. Shaw, H. D. Devereaux, Cleveland, Ohio; Palmer & Clark, Chicago; E. W. Swisher and Harry D. Shultz, Columbus, Ohio; State Fair Commission, Des Moines; Fred Steele, Wash.; G. G. H. S. White, G. Gillis and J. E. White, Syracuse; A. G. Gen. C. C. Watts, Charleston, W. Va.; Senator J. W. Bailey, Washington; D. C.; Bain Bros., George, Star James Snell, Robert Nash, Jerry Tarlton, John Splan, Harry Burgoine, all from Kentucky; Among the well known Grand Circuit trainers were Walter R. Cox, Thomas W. Murray, Charlie Den, and McMahon, Chicago; Mike Devlin, Boston; Eddie Benson, Alfonzo McDonald, Red White, W. L. Snow and H. W. McCarthy. The New York horsemen who were represented in the consignment were: Frank C. Hartwick, H. C. Condean, John H. Shultz, Frank Kilpatrick, James Farley, H. P. Clarke, Arthur Lane, Max and Leo Gettlinger, and R. L. Russell, Robert Goellet and Joseph Gibbons.

The best sales:

Horses, pacer, b. g. & g. by Arresto, \$250.

Vinton Trotter, b. m. by Vinton, \$200.

The company recently acquired through the same brokers the adjoining properties at 208 to 222 and now control a plot 120x900' within 120 feet of Seventh Avenue.

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AMATEUR BILLIARDS.

Changes May Be Made in Rules to Compete in Play.

Action upon two important matters is receiving the attention of the National Association of Amateur Billiard Players—the uncertainty as to Edward W. Gardner, the national champion, competing in the coming international championship and the method of offering titular trophies has compelled attention at this time. Leading officials of the national amateur association believe that the American champion will send in his entry by the time the list closes next Friday night. There is no doubt but that his failure to do so would cause embarrassment and the gentlemen who have directed the affairs of the association have decided that the trophy should go to the competitor who wins the approaching tournament, which is the second international to be decided in this country.

William H. Klenks, president of the national association, Robert C. Kammerer, G. O. Indulio and others in an informal discussion yesterday expressed the opinion that there should be incorporated in the rules and provisions that hereafter the amateur national billiard champion must stand ready to compete in tournaments of his class or at least give notice of retirement within a week following the invention of the tournament. It was pointed out that the international meeting is to be held on February 11, 12 and 13, and that the tournament was entered into in February one more foreign player would come to this country. The decision was therefore arranged to give the amateur a period during which he could offer the large concert hall, as the club's season of social festivities, massed balls and entertainments made difficult by the other date.

While there are a number of reasons that the contention of Gardner is well taken, that it would have been a better plan to extend the national title to the international, such as his having attended the meetings and has been aware of the facts. Even these friends of the champion believe, however, that in fairness to the amateur player, the national title should be given a willingness to compete at the time the tournament plans were first taken up and not without the privilege of his position as captain of the team.

The matter of placing trophies upon a tournament and challenge basis has also been discussed. The opinion is that the French Federation of Amateurs, the English and others will insist that the trophy be retained in England until February one more foreign player would come to this country. The decision was therefore arranged to give the amateur a period during which he could offer the large concert hall, as the club's season of social festivities, massed balls and entertainments made difficult by the other date.

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